

# Partnership News

27 June 2004

13th in Ordinary

Methodist  
Church

The Methodist Church & the Church of England in Partnership at both  
**Putnoe Heights Church & St. Mark's Church**

Church of  
England

## Church Services Today

### 8.30am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

### 9.30am St Mark's Church - Morning Worship

Preacher –The Revd Neil Bramble- Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions - Mr John Stubbs

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights - Morning Worship

Preacher - The Revd Neil Bramble Chapman

Leadership Team - Mr Peter Parker

Intercessions - Ministers

## 14 in Ordinary — July 4

### 8.30 am Service of Holy Communion

Held at both churches

### 9.30am St.Mark's Church –Family Service

Preacher - The Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing

Intercessions –Mr Ian Farthing

### 11.00am Putnoe Heights—Family Service

Preacher –Revd Dr Joan Crossley

Leadership Team -

Intercessions -

## Thank You

The flowers at St. Mark's this week have been given by Iris Perry in memory of Cyril on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary.

The flowers at Putnoe Heights Church this week have been given by Margaret and Eddy Peck to celebrate their recent wedding anniversary.

## Prayer for Sunday

Almighty God, you have broken the tyranny of sin and have sent the Spirit of your Son into our hearts whereby we call you Father: give us grace to dedicate our freedom to your service, that we and all creation may be brought to the glorious liberty of the children of God; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

## Contact Details

### The Reverend Dr. Sam Cappleman

107 Dover Crescent, Bedford MK41 8QR

266952 Fax- 402624 NSM@ThisisChurch.com

(Sam also works full time as a General Manager for Hewlett Packard)

### The Reverend Neil Bramble-Chapman BA, CTM

(Day off Friday)

12 Hartop Close, Putnoe. MK41 8HE

326643 Minister@ThisisChurch.com

### The Reverend Dr. Joan Crossley (Day off Friday)

30 Cutcliffe Grove, Bedford. MK40 4DD.

Home 344536 Crossley@Thisischurch.com

### The Reverend Charles Royden (Day off Thursday)

The Vicarage, Calder Rise. MK41 7UY

309175 Mobile 07973 113861 Vicar@ThisisChurch.com

### Time for God Volunteer Kasia Piecyk

St Mark's Flat - 315455

Partnership Website - [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

## Partnership Pastoral Support Team Co-Ordinator & Churchyards Administrator

Mrs Mary Stubbs 406784 Mary@Thisischurch.com

*Please inform us if you know of anyone who is ill, bereaved, housebound, requires a visit, home communion or counselling services. Please also ask us if you would like a home visit for any reason.*

## Putnoe Heights Church Centre

Open 9am - 1.00pm Monday & Friday

9am - 4pm Tuesday/Wednesday & Thursday

Tel/fax & Answering Service 365630 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

Centre Manager Mr Barry Snelson 365630

Leadership Team - Mrs Elizabeth Wyatt 350188

Treasurer Mrs Kathryn Morse 216428

treasurerph@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator - Mr John Hitt 404186

Junior Church Co-ordinator - Mrs Samantha Ware 304058

## St. Mark's Church Centre (Open 9am - 5.pm)

Tel/fax & Answering Service 342613 [www.ThisisChurch.com](http://www.ThisisChurch.com)

Centre Manager Miss Wendy Rider 342613

Wendy @thisischurch.com

Leadership Team - Mr Ian Farthing 210892

Treasurer - Mr John Day 295592 treasurer@Thisischurch.com

Gift Aid Administrator Mr Jim Williams 360605

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# Regular Weekly Activities - A Guide To Our Churches

## Monday

- 9.30 - 12.00 pm Pre-school** (See website for more details) Mrs Janet Smith 326685 (Putnoe Heights) or Mrs. Helen Harpin **312634** (St. Mark's).
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 12.00pm - 1.00pm Storybox** at Putnoe Heights Church. Service for parents/carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories Children's activities songs and prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm!
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Ms R.Mistry 01908 217555
- 6.00pm Brownies** St Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 6.15 pm Brownies** Putnoe. Alison McEwen 358583
- 7.30pm Sugarcraft Guild** meets first Monday every month at St. Mark's Mrs. Jill Williams 357020
- 7.15 m Guides** -St. Mark's. Mrs Gill Lake 218091
- 7.30- 9.30pm Creative Needles** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Hayward 307648
- 7.30pm Whist Drive** - At St Mark's each month. Next 19 July Contact Mrs. Judith Stanton. 823313
- 7.30pm Housegroup** 30 The Ridgeway. The home of Eddy & Margaret Peck 267567.
- 8.00 - 9.00 pm 'Get Fit, Stay Fit'** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs Diane Field 404976

## Tuesday

- 9.30am - 12.30pm Candlewicking** (Needlework) at Putnoe Heights - Mrs Olive Shotbolt 267203
- 9.30am - 11.30pm Jo Jingles** at St. Mark's. Music & movement for pre-school children. Contact Renu Elston 01908 282866
- 10.00am - 11.00am - Keep Fit** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Mrs Stileman 822230
- 1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828
- 12 noon - 10.00 pm Slimming World** at St. Mark's. Sessions start at 12, 1.30pm, 4pm, 5.30pm & 7.15pm Contact Val Careless 345213.
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Women's Fellowship** - Next meeting - 29 June Disability Information Service Contact Mrs Betty Wyatt 350188
- 2.15pm Putnoe Heights Men's Fellowship.** Next meetings 29th June—Mr R Downing. The Preservation of old Railway engines, Trolley buses and Paddle Steamers Contact Lawrence Wyatt 350188.
- 2.30pm Mother Teresa Support Group.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's. Wool and knitting needles provided. Contact Mrs Joan Gravett 356911 and Mrs Marjorie Taylor 305709
- 2.30pm Tuesday Afternoon Housegroup.** Meets fortnightly at St. Mark's Church. Contact Mary Stubbs 406784.
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Putnoe Heights Church Essential Stretch** Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096

- 6.30 - 7.30pm Yoga** at Putnoe Heights. Contact Rachel Leontyne 01234 783129
- 6.45pm Guides** at Putnoe Heights - Liz Rix 363607
- 7.00 - 8.00 pm Keep Fit at St. Mark's Church.** Contact Mrs Jan Gregory 214107.
- 7.30 - 9.30pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe Heights - Bible study & prayers. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438 or 07773354129
- 7. 45 pm Putnoe Heights Ladies Tuesday Club** - Meets fortnightly . Next meeting July 6 Bring and Share members eve Contact Mrs C Davies 219130
- 8.00pm Tuesday Housegroup** Next meeting 6 July at 16 Swindale , Contact Alison 403551 or Brian 305347.
- 8.30-9.30pm St. Mark's - Qi Gong** (Self help healing) group) - Contact Mr F Steele 355937

## Wednesday

- 10.00 am Childminding Support Group** at Putnoe Heights. Mrs S Longman 313949
- 10.00 am Day Care Centre** Putnoe Height Church for those with Learning Difficulties. Contact K Stenton 07748 760082
- 10.00 am Holy Communion** at St. Mark's Chapel. A half hour service followed by coffee. All welcome.
- 10am Sewing & Chat** Putnoe Heights Contact Valerie Russell 01462 815966
- 12 - 1pm Putnoe Height Church Total Body Toning** Contact Caroline 07778 898135 or 326096
- Luncheon Club** at St. Mark's meets fortnightly. Next one 7 July Mima & Trevor Nobles Diamond wedding celebration. Contact St. Mark's 342613
- 1.30 - 4.00pm. Bridge Club for the Retired** - Meets weekly at St. Mark's. Mrs Truss Boyce 781133
- 4.15 - 5.45pm Kumon Maths** at Putnoe Heights Contact Ms R Mistry 01908 217555
- 6. - 7.00pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 07711 687449
- 6.00 -7.30 pm Brownies** at St Mark's Contact Mrs Carol Warden 219731
- 7.00pm St. Mark's Church Bunyan Bridge.** Contact Brian Sallows 407725
- 7-10pm Putnoe Guild** - Putnoe Heights 3rd Wednesday each month. Contact Mrs Dallas 212609
- 7.45 - 8.45pm Kick Boxing** Junior classes St. Mark's. Mr James 07711687449 or 07810234890
- 7.45pm Badminton Club** at Putnoe Heights - all welcome. Contact Ken Marriott 214867

## Thursday

- 9.30am Thursday Prayer Group at Putnoe Heights** in the side chapel. Sylvia Cohen 343424 *Request for prayer can be written in the prayer diary on the information table.*
- 10.30am - 12.00am Brickhill Clinic** at St Mark's with **Fledglings 2.00pm—3.00pm** Contact 267444
- 10.00am - 11.30am Yoga at Putnoe Heights**

Contact 244970

**12 - 1.00 pm Storybox** at St Mark's Church.

Service for parents, carers & children under 5. Sandwich lunch, Bible Stories, Children's activities, songs & prayers, all in one hour from 12-1pm.

**1.30 - 3.00 pm St. Mark's Church Toddler Group.**

Contact Debbie Coppenhall 356828.

**1.30 -3.00pm Putnoe Heights Church Toddlers**

**Playtime** Contact Geraldine Skeel 406828

**2.30 Bedford Arts Society** at St. Mark's. Contact

Celia Maddison 782901

**6.15 pm Weightwatchers at St. Mark's.**

Contact Mrs Margaret Ralph 01767 224978.

**6.15pm Brownies at Putnoe** Mrs S Lewis 300198

**7.30 - 9.30pm Club 2000** Putnoe 2nd Thursday of the month. Contact Mrs Moreton 771261

**6.15 - 7.30pm Bedford Junior Chess Club.** St.

Mark's Contact Mr & Mrs Pike 823795

**7.30pm - 11.00pm Bedford Senior Chess Club** at

St Mark's Contact Mr Hatton 824988

**7.30 - 9.30pm Embroiderer's Guild** St Mark's- 3rd

Thursday month. Contact Mrs K Sage 771525

**7.45pm. Housegroup**-Meets fortnightly at 3 Little

Headlands. Newcomers always welcome. Contact Betty Wyatt 350188

**8.00 - 10pm Bedford Writers Circle** meets at St

Mark's Church 3rd Thursday each month. Contact

Mr John Broadhouse 740271

**Friday**

**10.00 am Day Care Centre** at St. Mark's Church

Contact K Stenton 07748 760082

**6 -7.00 pm Self Defence at Putnoe** Contact Mr James 0771 687449 or 07810 234890

**7. 30 - 9.30pm** Young Peoples meeting Contact Pastor Tarr 376841

**7.30pm Music Group** St. Mark's Church/monthly

**6.30pm -8.30 pm Dog Training Classes** at St. Mark's Contact Mrs L. Laton 365601

**Saturday**

**10.00am - 1.00pm & 2 - 5pm Theatre Train at St**

**Mark's** -dancing acting, singing,- Kate Randle 304865

**7.15pm - 10.30pm Duplicate Bridge** at St Mark's

Contact Ann or Peter 212066

**Peace Project Saturday School** at Putnoe Heights.

For details contact Mrs.E.Tarr 309881

**Sunday**

**1- 3pm & 7-9pm Bibleway Church** at Putnoe

Heights - Worship. Contact Pastor Tarr 348438

Mob. 07773354129

## News, Views and Information

### The Calendar

**Putnoe Centre Management** 26 July

**St Mark's Church Council**

October 13 2004, February 1 2005

**Churchyards Committee**

Next meeting Monday 6 September, 10am

**St Mark's Centre Management Meeting**

Wednesday 23 June, Monday 26 July, Wednesday

29 September, Wednesday 10 November

**St Mark's Leadership Team**

Wednesday 8 September

**Putnoe Church Council**

11 October 2004, 7 February 2005

13 June 2005, 10 October 2005

**Pastoral Group** Wednesday 15 September at

2.30pm

Calendar dates now appear on our church website [www.ThisChurch.com](http://www.ThisChurch.com). Please advise us if you have a date to be added to the church calendar.

### St Mark's Christmas Craft Fayre Working Party

I am running short of the cellophane wrapping which comes on shop bought cards. If you could collect any from friends as well as your own, keep it flat and put it in my drawer at church or hand it over when you see me, I'd be very grateful. It is used for packaging hand made cards for church and other charities. I can remove sticky labels. Marion Prior - St Mark's

**Wedding Celebrations** On Wednesday 7 July Lunch

Club at St. Mark's church will be one of the contributions to the Diamonds Wedding celebrations of Mima & Trevor Noble. Lunch club members and all friends of the happy couple are invited to have lunch on this special occasion. Would all non lunch club members please let Jenny Emsley know by the 30 June Tel 360397

**New Youth Group at Putnoe** If you have shown an

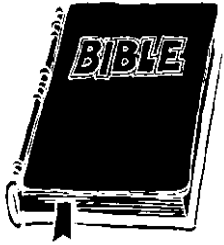
interest in leading this group of young people, a meeting has been arranged for 7.30pm, 29 June at the home of Peter and Julia Bailey

**Open Garden** Sunday 7th July 23 Orwell Close

2.30pm - 5.00pm (Home of Marion and Wendy. In aid of retirement Centre extension fund. Admission £2 includes refreshments. Plants and cards for sale. Sheltered viewing if wet, then refreshments indoors.

**Thanks to Judith Stanton** and all the supporters for their donation of £93 from their recent whist evening.

**Rotas now available.** Please note the 8.30am Holy Communion will be alternate in July and August. We will publish dates in July Partnership News each week throughout the summer.



# Bible Notes Ordinary 13

## Opening Verse of Scripture

### A Collect Prayer

Lord of heaven and earth, you sent your Holy Spirit to be the life and power of your Church. Sow in our hearts the seeds of your grace that we may bear the fruit of the Spirit in love and joy and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### First Bible Reading 2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14

After Ahab's death, Moab rebelled against Israel. Now Ahaziah had fallen through the lattice of his upper room in Samaria and injured himself. So he sent messengers, saying to them, "Go and consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, to see if I will recover from this injury."

"A man came to meet us," they replied. "And he said to us, 'Go back to the king who sent you and tell him, "This is what the LORD says: Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are sending men to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron? Therefore you will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!'" The king asked them, "What kind of man was it who came to meet you and told you this?" They replied, "He was a man with a garment of hair and with a leather belt around his waist." The king said, "That was Elijah the Tishbite." Then he sent to Elijah a captain with his company of fifty men. The captain went up to Elijah, who was sitting on the top of a hill, and said to him, "Man of God, the king says, 'Come down!'" Elijah answered the captain, "If I am a man of God, may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then fire fell from heaven and consumed the captain and his men. At this the king sent to Elijah another captain with his fifty men. The captain said to him, "Man of God, this is what the king says, 'Come down at once!'" "If I am a man of God," Elijah replied, "may fire come down from heaven and consume you and your fifty men!" Then the fire of God fell from heaven and consumed him and his fifty men. So the king sent a third captain with his fifty men. This third captain went up and fell on his knees before Elijah. "Man of God," he begged, "please have respect for my life and the lives of these fifty men, your servants! See, fire has fallen from heaven and consumed the first two captains and all their men. But now have respect for my life!" (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### Second Reading Galatians Chapter 5:1, 13-25

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature ; rather, serve one another in love. The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbour as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against

such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Gospel Reading Luke Chapter 9:51-62**

As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem. And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" But Jesus turned and rebuked them, and they went to another village. As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus replied, "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." He said to another man, "Follow me." But the man replied, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Still another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say good-bye to my family." Jesus replied, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (This is the word of the Lord -- **Thanks be to God**)

### **Post Communion Prayer**

O God, whose beauty is beyond our imagining and whose power we cannot comprehend: show us your glory as far as we can grasp it, and shield us from knowing more than we can bear until we may look upon you without fear; through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

### **Hymns** (Please distribute hymns and Psalms and Morning Worship)

1. As the deer pants for the water 37
2. Jesus we celebrate 387
3. God of grace 192 (Rhuddlan)
4. Be thou my vision 51
5. Take my life and let it be (Nottingham) 624

### **Commentary** Commentary Luke 9:51-62

Luke speaks about the time when Jesus will be taken up, a theme which echoes the reading from Kings. Those who know the Gospel, understand that Luke is referring to the ascension, but as Luke tells the story this event is still in the future, to be preceded by the Crucifixion and Resurrection. The focus for these events is Jerusalem and Jesus now sets his face to travel there and face what lies ahead. The Samaritans were unlikely to have welcomed Jewish people especially those heading for the rival sanctuary at Jerusalem. Jesus, despite his disciples encouragement, does not wish to bring about their destruction. People are free to accept or reject Jesus and it is not for Christians to respond in anger when people choose to reject him. As we know, accepting Jesus as Lord brings its own demands, for Jesus accepts suffering in the way of the cross and the disciple of Jesus must be prepared to suffer with Jesus and see that the hard demands of discipleship have priority over even the most pressing of family ties. For the Early Church, it was not always easy to maintain ties with family once they had accepted Jesus, Christians often had to make hard choices. These hard choices often between family and Christ, have continued to cause discomfort and hardship even to this day.

Perhaps what is necessary is the ability to strike the right balance between the demands of discipleship and commitment to one's family. When a Christian devotes more time to the needs of people outside the family or generally invests more energy to working life than home life, then this can cause resentment and family breakdown may result. It is utterly essential that all people take their family responsibilities seriously and ensure that adequate time is given to partners and children and wider contacts. To achieve this right balance is a task that must be shared by all, from the individual Christian to the Local Church, to the National Churches at all levels. This involves support and a desire to see justice hand in hand with love and commitment to Christ. Perhaps it also calls into question many of the current practices and structures in our Churches.

In thinking about suffering for Christ, in many parts of the world Christians are imprisoned and killed for their faith. Thank God we do not suffer in this way. Let us not underestimate the cost of discipleship for many Christians and let us determine to support one another as we too seek to be faithful disciples of Christ. *Neil Bramble-Chapman*

## **Meditation**

2,000 years ago in Rome there was a large demand for statues for the houses and gardens of the rich. People would often have a statue carved of themselves made from marble or stone. As a consequence, the availability of good quality marble began to dwindle. Statues took hours to make and a mistake with a chisel could be costly. So unscrupulous suppliers and carvers would sometimes patch up and disguise defects in lower grades of the material with a kind of wax polish. In the sculptor's shop, the customer would not be able to see the wax without looking very closely. However the warmth of a house, sunshine, or rain might wear the wax away to reveal the underlying blemishes. Smarter purchasers therefore started to demand that the goods were provided with a signed certificate guaranteeing that they had not been ameliorated or, in other words, were sold 'without wax'.

A genuine statue would be **without wax**. The Latin words for "without wax" are "*sine cera*" - giving us the English word "sincere". A statue that was "the real thing", genuine, would be "*without wax*" - sincere. If we say that a person is **not** "sincere", then they are false, not the real thing, not genuine: pretending to be what they are not. *Charles Royden*

**Lord, each of us projects an image of ourselves by the way we dress, speak, behave. Help us to conduct ourselves sincerely in the life which you would have us live. Amen.**

## **Prayers for Sunday and the week ahead**

O Lord God, since you have put within me the great desire to devote myself to the needs of others, grant me the strength of your grace. In the midst of my work let me not lose sight of your great purposes. Let me not snatch the management of your world from your hands, lest I faint and fall in the presence of your wisdom; this I beg for Jesu's sake. Amen *Florence Nightingale, 1820-1910*

## **A song of St Anselm (St Anselm 1033-1109)**

Jesus, like a mother you gather your people to you; you are gentle with us as a mother with her children. Often you weep over our sins and our pride, tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgement. You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us. Jesus, by your dying we are born to new life; by your anguish and labour we come forth in joy. Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear. Your warmth gives life to the dead, your touch makes sinners righteous Jesus, in your mercy heal us; In your love and tenderness remake us. In your compassion bring grace and forgiveness, for the beauty of heaven may your love prepare us.

## **Saving the rural church - 1000s of countryside congregations to gain from new report**

The Methodist Church is determined to reinforce Christian presence in rural communities. 'Presence', a new handbook, will shape the way the church will work over the next 10 years. 'Presence' will be launched at Methodist Conference 2004, and will outline how an effective Christian presence can be sustained and promoted in rural areas.

Christian churches still constitute the principal representation of faith communities in the countryside. However, the report warns that unless things change quickly, there are going to be huge areas of rural Britain without any effective Christian presence. The Revd David Emison, Chair of the Cumbria District of The Methodist Church and editor of 'Presence', said: "New patterns of worship will be encouraged. An effective Christian presence is not necessarily building-centred or Sunday focussed. The church must learn how to respond to popular spirituality, though at the same retain its authentic Christian witness."

Stories abound where Christians in rural areas have already taken these messages on board:

West Bradford – When the village Post Office closed the Methodist Church offered to make available the vestry be used instead. The church now serves coffee to the post office customers.

Beadlam/Nawton (North Yorkshire) – The closure and sale of the Methodist Church Hall enabled the refurbishment of the Parish Church as a single centre of Christian worship in the village.

Alston (Cumbria) – Methodists and Roman Catholics share the same building.

Kirkby Lonsdale (Cumbria) – New patterns of church life and worship have led to congregation growth from 33 to 80 over a period of five years.

'Presence' recognises that an effective Christian presence in rural areas will always be ecumenical. The Anglican-Methodist covenant provides a new and exciting context for ministry in rural areas.

As 'Presence' recognises, the churches need to work with other public service providers, local authorities and parish councils, to develop an integrated approach to meeting the changing needs of rural people and communities."

# News, Views and Information

**Wanted.** Person to work in Hazeldene Heights Pre-school. Position temporary for 6 months may become permanent. Apply in writing to the Headteacher - Mrs Janet Smith. Closing date Friday 25 June.

## **Bedford Cricketing Saints and Warthogs**

As some of you may know, Bedford Cricketing Saints and Warthogs is a local cricket team based partly on members from St Mark's, Putnoe Heights and other local churches. Our current players include Neil Bramble-Chapman, Mike Cooper, Adrian and Peter Quarry, Graham Cooke and Mark Smith. We play other church sides both from Bedford and beyond. Each season we venture even further afield for a mid-season tour - this year we are heading south to play a couple of churches in Southampton on 10 and 11 July. Results so far - Played 6 Won 6.

Highlights have included 5 wickets for 6 runs (including the club's first ever hat-trick!) and a sparkling 20 not out by James Lord in the 8 wicket win over St. Luke's Bricket Wood; typically pugnacious knocks of 30 not out by Peter Quarry and 31 not out and 4 for 21 by Mark Smith in the 43 run victory over Bunyan Road Baptists Stevenage; a Shane Warne-like magical spell of 4 for 13 by Neil Bramble-Chapman in our 32-run defeat of Eynesbury Methodists: and some flamboyant stroke play by Bryce Titman (33 not out) and James Lord (32 not out) in the 5 wicket win over Holy Trinity Oxford. Forthcoming home games in Bedford Park are as follows:

Sunday 27 June: St Guthlac's Market Deeping (2.15pm)

Tuesday 29 June: St John's Bedford (6.15pm)

Tuesday 6 July: Eynesbury Methodists (6.15pm)

Please do come along and lend us your support if you are able to do so. We would be delighted to see you. *Adrian Quarry Captain -Bedford Cricketing Saints & Warthogs*

**A statement by the Rt Revd Christopher Herbert, Bishop of St Albans.** In the light of recent events surrounding the appointment of a new Dean of St Albans, Mr Philip Lovegrove has tendered his resignation as chairman of the St Albans Diocesan Board of Finance, with immediate effect. He has also indicated his decision to have his name removed as an Honorary Lay Canon of the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban.

The Bishop of St Albans writes: 'It is with great regret and sadness that I have received and accepted Philip Lovegrove's resignation. He has given himself heroically in the service of the diocese and has ensured that our financial affairs have been kept in good order. He has led by personal example in encouraging parish giving and has done so over many, many years. As a diocese we owe Philip

Lovegrove a great debt of gratitude.

He has enlivened many diocesan and General Synod debates with characteristic good humour and sharpness of perception, and has been assiduous in his visits to deaneries and parishes trying to explain church finances. He will be deeply missed by us all in his financial leadership of the diocese, which has been rooted in his firm and steadfast Christian faith. I shall miss him as a colleague and assure him of my personal appreciation, thanks and prayers.

*You may read the presidential address by Bishop Christopher on the Diocesan website <http://www.stalbans.anglican.org> The following is an extract from that speech —*

Within all the debate surrounding the appointment, there are these huge and important issues - about which, I believe, we have not yet been able to come to an agreed conclusion. One of the saddening features of my postbag, over the past few weeks, has been the way in which biblical texts have been used. It is not that they are quoted - that is not the issue - but it is as though all the thinking and study that has gone on in the Church during the twentieth century concerning the Bible has simply not been recognised. And furthermore, questions about the Incarnation and of God's continuing revelation of Himself in Scripture and in the world, have hardly featured at all. I recognise, of course, that many people feel dismayed, angry and hurt by the appointment; their sincerity as fellow Christians is not in question. I recognise also that many people feel happy, elated and encouraged by the appointment, and their sincerity as Christians is not in question, either. When there are, in the areas of human self-understanding, biblical understanding and understanding of God, so many deeply held beliefs in a social and cultural context which is constantly in change, it seems to me that two things are necessary. At an intellectual level we need firstly to have the humility to listen deeply and patiently to each other. Secondly, we need to continue to think about the nature of God, the nature of the Bible, the nature of society, the nature of self-understanding - and the relationship between all four.

A new book has been published by Stephen Bates in which he declares his belief that the Church of England is being invaded by a "Taliban Tendency with its own agenda and a strong determination to win". Theirs, he says, is "a sectarian, congregationalist Church that can tolerate only one sort of Christian". The book features interviews with the Archbishop of Canterbury in which he speaks of *A Church at War, by Stephen Bates, is published on 30 June by IB Tauris (£17.95; 1-85043-480-8).*

# Nova Property Services Ltd.

57 Murdock Road, Manton Lane Industrial Estate, Bedford. MK41 7PL

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**Dave Allen** is pleased to announce the opening of his new company Nova Property Services Ltd. We cover every aspect of building requirements from minor building repairs and property maintenance, to complete refurbishment of residential and commercial property. We will meet the individual needs of all our customers, large or small. We will be pleased to visit and provide a written quotation to meet all your building requirements. Contact us for a competitive and individual quotation, with all work fully guaranteed.

Plumbing \* Carpentry \* Flooring \* Tiling \* Roofing \* Plastering  
Painting and decorating \* Electrical repairs and installations \*  
Garden landscaping and maintenance \* General building work

**TIP!** For painting the outside of your property use Dulux Weathershield paint, it provides excellent results which last up to 8 years. It can even be used on metal and plastic gutters. The system requires two coats of undercoat and one of gloss. We will only paint externally between mid-April and mid-September. This is because moisture badly affects most paints, while low temperatures can stop drying and cause long-term adhesion problems.

If you would like a quotation for painting your property inside or out call Nova now for a free quotation. .

If you would like to advertise your company using Partnership News please contact St Mark's Church office for our advertising rates.

## Rest In Peace

On the Sunday following a funeral service we remember in church those who have died. We light a candle to symbolise the light of Christ which eternally shines and brings hope. If you would like a person remembered in our service when the candle is lit, perhaps on an anniversary or birthday, please inform the ministers, or telephone the church office.

**Edith Evelyn Cox  
Hilda Rose Gazeley**

*May the souls of all the faithful  
departed through the mercy  
of God, rest in peace and  
rise in glory. Amen.'*

**Partnership News.** It has been suggested that Partnership News should be made available on our website each week. If you have any comments on this please do speak with me directly. The only immediate concern would be the wider circulation of telephone numbers and contact details. Please tell us if you would not like your details to be published more widely.

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## The following funerals have been arranged

**The funeral of Freda Nancy West** will take place on 1st July at 12.15pm at Bedford Crematorium.

**The funeral of Arthur Dew** will take place at Bedford Crematorium on Friday 2 July at 3.15pm